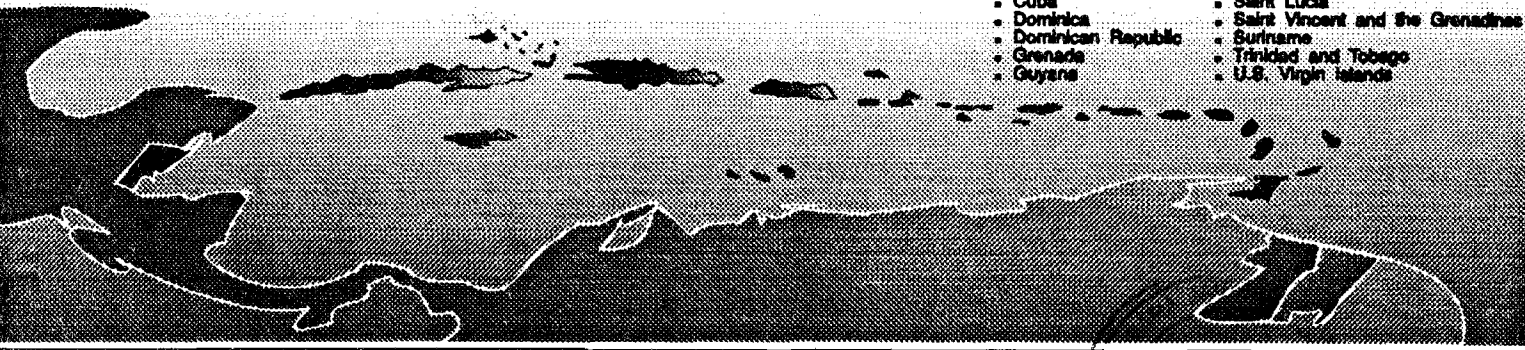




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- Antigua and Barbuda
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- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
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- Netherlands Antilles
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- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- U.S. Virgin Islands



GENERAL

30 November 1994

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)**



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FEB 1995



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

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PART ONE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda item 5 - Review of the work of ECLAC/CDCC

(a) Sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC; (Port of Spain, 25 November 1993)

The meeting noted the report of this meeting and also noted that it dealt with issues which were treated elsewhere on the agenda.

(b) Report on the implementation of the work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1992-1993 biennium; consideration of the approved work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1994-1995 biennium; and approval of the work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium

The secretariat was asked to increase its collaboration with other agencies active in the Caribbean, so as to reduce overlap in its activities and take advantage of synergies which could be derived from joint activities.

The secretariat was asked to explore the possibilities of collaboration in the forthcoming study on Small Island States, being conducted by the World Bank.

The secretariat was urged to make a greater effort to identify projects which would make greater use of United Nations resources and to collaborate with regional institutions, such as CARICOM and SELA, in the area of Caribbean/Latin American relations. The secretariat was also asked, in its presentation of the 1996-1997 work programme, to provide the financial implications of these activities from the regular budget as well as from other agencies and a chronograph of the work programme activities. It was also urged to follow up the outcomes of the world conferences on population, women and social development and to support the activities of the ACS.

The secretariat was urged to keep the subject of Human Resources Development on its work programme and seek the necessary funding for it.

Agenda item 6 - Activities in preparation for United Nations global conferences

(a) The United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries; (Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994)

It was proposed that ECLAC/CDCC take the initiative to organize an expert group meeting in 1995 to discuss the follow-up of the Programme of Action in the Caribbean subregion.

It was suggested that the secretariat strive to have the subject of agricultural development included in its preparatory work for the World Social Summit.

(b) The International Conference on Population and Development; (Cairo, September 1994); The Draft Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action for Population and Development; and the Draft Port of Spain Declaration on Population and Development

Note was taken of the study being undertaken by the secretariat to document the contribution that migrants made to Caribbean development.

The meeting endorsed the Port of Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development.

(c) The World Summit for Social Development; (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995)

The meeting noted and endorsed the proposal of the secretariat to convene a second meeting preparatory to the World Social Summit.

(d) The Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995)

The meeting commended the secretariat for its efforts in ensuring the effective preparation of the subregion for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Delegates expressed their satisfaction with the preparatory work for all four world conferences on the agenda.

**Agenda item 7 - Issues of economic cooperation
and development**

(a) The question of eligibility of Caribbean countries for participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

It was agreed that the secretariat should compare the requirements of the NAFTA with those of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) taking into account the interests of CDCC member countries.

(b) Issues of intra-regional cooperation

(i) **The Association of Caribbean States (ACS)**

The meeting noted the need to make the people of the region better aware of the objectives of the ACS.

The secretariat suggested that a structured formalized relationship should be established with the ACS in view of the complementary nature of the work programmes of ECLAC and the ACS. In closing, the secretariat requested the guidance of the meeting as to how the future relationship between the CDCC and the ACS might evolve.

(ii) **Caribbean/Latin American cooperation**

The Committee noted that the relationship between the CDCC and the ACS was still being defined and that areas of complementarity could be found between the programme of Caribbean/Latin American cooperation and the proposed work programme of the ACS.

(c) Export processing in the Caribbean: Lessons from four case studies

The meeting received the report on EPZs in the Caribbean and expressed its appreciation for the research done by the secretariat.

(d) Issues of structural adjustment and privatization in the Caribbean

It was suggested that the subregional institutions should assist countries in solving specific problems related to adjustment.

Agenda item 8 - The Haitian situation

The meeting noted that assistance had not always been forthcoming to Haiti and ECLAC/CDCC was exhorted to provide assistance for this member State now in crisis.

Agenda item 9 - Other issues

(a) Report of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)

The meeting recommended that the secretariat make a critical analysis and evaluation of the work programme of the CCST during the last 10 years, with a view to revising its mission, objectives, functioning and structure.

(b) Report of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)

The meeting agreed that the CDCC work programme should include a number of issues of interest to the NICCs, such as an analysis of the rules of procedure of the United Nations world conferences, an overview of constitutional arrangements pertaining to the NICCs, the impact of NAFTA on associate member countries, analysis of market access to the European Union and potential for interaction within the Association of Caribbean States.

(c) Update on Project for the Promotion of Language Communication

The meeting urged member countries to support the project for the Removal of Language Barriers.

It was agreed that ways should be explored to increase student exchanges between countries and institutions in the subregion.

(d) Date and venue of the sixteenth session of the CDCC

The secretariat was mandated to consult with member countries and inform them of the site and date of the sixteenth session, in due course.

Agenda item 10 - Any other business

CDCC/CARICOM Agreement

It was agreed that the CDCC/CARICOM Agreement be brought into force, through an appropriate procedure, at an early date.

Participation in the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico Regional Hydrographic Commission (CGMHC)

The Committee welcomed the initiative to create the CGMHC and urged CDCC governments to consider membership.

Condolences to Mrs. Cordell Wilson

The meeting expressed its condolences to Mrs. Cordell Wilson, who had served as Chairperson at the thirteenth session of the CDCC, on the recent death of her husband, and asked that they be conveyed to her by the Jamaican delegation.

PART TWO

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

The fifteenth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, at the technical level from 26-28 July 1994 and at the ministerial level on 29 July 1994.

Attendance¹

Representatives of the following member countries of the Committee attended the session: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Participating associate members were: Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles and the United States Virgin Islands.

The French Antilles attended in observer capacity.

The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) was represented by the Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) for the Caribbean Area in Port of Spain.

Representatives of the following organizations of the United Nations system attended the session: the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The following United Nations specialized agencies were represented: the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The following intergovernmental organizations and institutions were represented: the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Institute of International Relations (IIR) of the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Agenda item 1 - Opening of meeting

In the opening session, statements were made by the outgoing chairman, Dr. the Honourable Francis Alexis, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs of Grenada, Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and the incoming Chairman, Dr. Juan Aristides Taveras Guzman, Minister of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic.

In his opening statement, the outgoing Chairman, Dr. the Honourable Francis Alexis of Grenada, expressed his satisfaction that Grenada had been able to make a useful, if small, contribution to the furtherance of the programme of the CDCC during his chairmanship. He noted that while organizations were sometimes criticized for undertaking overly ambitious tasks, the CDCC had consistently represented the development needs of its member States, to the extent that implementation had socio-political and economic consequences for member States. Since implementation depended on resources, no effort should be spared to ensure that the CDCC received the resources to carry out its mandate.

1

See Annex I

Minister Alexis noted that countries in the subregion were faced with severe problems requiring stringent adjustment policies. They had shown varying degrees of success, sometimes revealing new and fundamental issues to be addressed. Grenada had undertaken a self-regulated adjustment process, with significant regional input, which had achieved some success in reducing the fiscal deficit and improving Grenada's credit rating. It had not, however, yet managed to achieve its growth targets.

Turning to international economic relations, the Minister made reference to emerging trading blocs and the far-reaching results of the newly completed GATT Round. He noted the current emphasis on reciprocity, with the erosion of hitherto agreed preferences requiring small weak countries to compete with the strong. In this situation equality was not synonymous with equity.

Turning to the World Social Summit, he noted that a poor and unhealthy population made scant contribution to development and placed strain on financial resources and social infrastructure. Emphasis would need to be placed on Human Resources Development, and focus on agriculture and food production since this targeted those in greatest need. Donor agencies were exhorted to support this thrust.

The recent formation of the ACS was next mentioned, the Minister noting that it was creating great expectation. He suggested that the role and relevance of CDCC must, however, be strengthened since it afforded the smaller countries more direct contact with the United Nations system. Moreover, in the context of the uncertain status of the NICCs in the ACS, he stated that CDCC had always managed to provide a haven for them. In closing his presentation and handing over the mantle of Chairman to the Dominican Republic, the Minister expressed confidence in the capacity of the incoming Chairman to provide the kind of leadership to advance the work of the Committee and fulfil its mandate.

In his opening presentation, Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, expressed his pleasure at being in the Dominican Republic, not only for its hospitality but also because the country was currently involved in a painstaking study of the options offered for integration in the region. This was one of the great challenges faced by the region since it faced a world in which all factors of production were being globalized, since the achievement of international competitiveness depended not only on each country's public policies, but also on the rules governing international economic relations and since regional governments in response had devised a number of arrangements to cope with these new realities. This latter factor made it necessary to promote integration agreements without limiting the countries' opportunities for better linkages with the global economy. He noted that the ECLAC secretariat had pondered this matter and had offered to work with governments, listing eight requirements necessary for promoting open regionalism.

Turning to the role that the CDCC could play in the changed regional context, the Executive Secretary noted that it had in the past served four major roles: as a sounding board for building the concerns of the Caribbean into the ECLAC work programme; as a forum for analysing United Nations issues from a Caribbean perspective and for transmitting a subregional perspective to the United Nations system; it provided an opportunity for strengthening cooperation within the Caribbean; and for promoting cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America. He noted that these roles were still valid, since despite the integration options which had emerged, it was necessary for this United Nations forum to coordinate those other efforts and provide them with technical support.

The incoming Chairman, Dr. Juan Aristides Taveras Guzman, Minister of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic, conveyed his warm welcome to the diverse collection of countries represented in the CDCC. He traced his country's

support for CDCC since its inception, saluting it as a forum for understanding and analysis of socio-economic problems and a tool for fostering cooperation and integration in the region.

The Minister noted the speedy changes at the international level, with changes in the centres of economic power and the evolution of new trading relationships, globally and in the region such as evidenced by the ACS and NAFTA. These developments, he said, presaged global free trade for the first time in history. Hemispheric free trade would give body to the Pan American destiny articulated by Simon Bolivar; but to benefit from this process it would be necessary for us to move from being observers to actors and to win our own economic space. This would require energy and imagination and solutions deriving from an understanding of our own problems.

Turning to preparations for impending global conferences, the Minister committed his country's support of these and expressed interest in the follow-up to the SIDS conference. He also pledged to support the CDCC project on the Removal of Language Barriers. Referring to social development, he indicated that this implied not only humane conditions but also rights to self-determination. He noted that development implied the transformation of society in all its aspects, social, economic, cultural, as well as in administrative structures, but that this would be impossible without firm leadership and the presence of political will. He indicated that NAFTA would provide the greatest incentive to reforms in the region, but the approach should be a joint one. For its part, the ACS would serve as a unifying force for the diverse mosaic that was the Caribbean. In closing, the Minister asked all the governments to support the offer of the Dominican Republic to be the site of the ACS Secretariat.

Agenda item 2 - Election of officers

The following officers were elected by consensus at the meeting of the Heads of Delegation prior to the opening of the meeting at the technical level:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Dominican Republic
<u>First Vice-Chairman:</u>	Suriname
<u>Second Vice-Chairman:</u>	Netherlands Antilles
<u>Third Vice-Chairman:</u>	Jamaica
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Dominica

Agenda item 3 - Statements

Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The representative of Cuba stated that CDCC countries were facing new challenges, which they would have to surmount. In the past, the New International Economic Order sought fair treatment, but currently all that was expected was reciprocity, where grand concessions were being made by the weaker parties. The ACS provided an historic opportunity to contribute to future development but first the old barriers of size and language had to be surmounted. These would need to be addressed within the CDCC as well as within the ACS. Cuba, he stated, would cooperate without preconditions. It was willing to establish links with companies, the so-called real actors, on the basis of mutual respect and fair profits. It welcomed the participation of entrepreneurial skills to cooperate

with the skilled Cuban workforce which had a high proportion of scientific personnel and was open to all offers.

Speaking on behalf of the Constitutional Government of Haiti, Minister Claudette Werleigh thanked the Dominican Republic for the warm welcome extended to the delegates and expressed her satisfaction with the quality of work demonstrated at this CDCC/ECLAC session. The Minister also expressed her appreciation for the priority given to the Haitian situation and indicated her Government's support for the resolution on Haiti as well as those on language barriers, CCST and the NICCs.

Addressing the situation in her country, the Minister appealed to the countries of the region to assist in ending the crisis in Haiti, where an increasingly severe repression was forcing people to flee the country. She also requested assistance in rebuilding the country once the crisis was over. She expressed her appreciation for the countries accepting Haitian refugees and pledged the contribution of the Haitian people to solve the Haitian problem and help rebuild their country.

The Jamaican representative, the Honourable Benjamin Clare, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that the meeting was being held at a time of great promise for the subregion, with the recent signing of the Convention Establishing the ACS. He noted that prior to this, the CDCC had been the only Caribbean organization which facilitated cooperation between the various linguistic groups on such a wide range of issues. It had, therefore, by its example lit the path which the ACS would follow. In welcoming the new Director, the Minister of State expressed appreciation for the work of the secretariat since the last CDCC meeting. He supported the renewed emphasis on the removal of language barriers project, outlining the initiatives being taken by Jamaica to develop Spanish as the second official language.

Jamaica remained committed to ensuring the restoration of constitutional democracy in Haiti, which was a precondition for its sustained development. The Minister of State expressed support for the initiatives being taken by the international community to return President Aristide to Haiti and fully supported the strengthening of sanctions against Haiti. He supported the initiatives within the CDCC to assist Haiti and outlined action being taken at the national level to assist in the processing and rehabilitation of Haitian refugees in Jamaica.

The representative of the Netherlands Antilles drew attention to the work of her country over the years on the language barriers project. In tracing the initiative, she noted that the past 10 years had been dedicated to sensitizing CDCC countries to the benefits of the project and seeking their participation and was, therefore, pleased to formally announce the establishment of the national chapter in the Netherlands Antilles. She also expressed her thanks for the support given to the resolution dealing with the project and was pleased that the meeting had endorsed the Netherlands Antilles as the site of the project headquarters.

The representative of Suriname noted the widespread changes taking place at the regional and global levels, especially the renewed interest in multilateralism. Suriname was dedicated to joining CARICOM and the ACS, as this provided the best way to safeguard its interests in a world of growing mega-blocs. He also stressed that Suriname was a part of the region and wished to contribute towards shaping its future. He welcomed the current focus on NAFTA, noting the difficulties some countries would have in qualifying for membership and its impact on existing preferential arrangements. While policies to qualify were desirable, since they improved the capacity to compete globally, assistance should be provided to potential members on the basis of the European Union-African, Caribbean, Pacific (EU-ACP) model.

Support was expressed for the World Social Summit, since it held the prospect for realizing the peace dividend promised by the ending of the cold war. In closing, the Suriname delegate reiterated his country's support for the people of Haiti, and endorsed the CDCC resolution dealing with this issue. He noted Suriname's acceptance of a second set of Haitian refugees and offered his country's participation in the proposed United Nations peace-keeping mission to Haiti.

The representative from Trinidad and Tobago, Ambassador Annette des Iles, noted with appreciation the presence of the Executive Secretary, Mr. Gert Rosenthal, which signified the importance which ECLAC gave to the CDCC. She also welcomed the renewed vitality and sense of purpose of the CDCC displayed since the arrival of the new Director. She characterized the crisis engulfing the Haitian people as the most disturbing issue facing the Caribbean and stated that the CDCC should maintain support for President Aristide and pursue efforts within the international community to force the illegal regime to relinquish control. Noting the commitment of Trinidad and Tobago to widening the regional movement, the Ambassador hailed the recent creation of the ACS and welcomed ECLAC's commitment to support it. She restated her Government's offer to provide the headquarters of the ACS and expressed hope that CDCC governments would support the offer.

Turning to the follow-up to the SIDS conference, the Ambassador expressed the hope that the ECLAC Office in Port of Spain would provide a concrete statement on its proposals for follow-up to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, so as to help governments to justify the case for supplementary resources for the purpose. She also hoped that ECLAC would convene an expert technical working group on the SIDS to discuss the follow-up to that conference. In closing, the representative expressed her thanks for the support ECLAC was providing in helping member countries to prepare for forthcoming major international conferences and hoped that members would make the best possible use of these preparatory efforts in formulating programmes for cooperation in the fields of population, social development and women.

Agenda item 4 - Adoption of agenda and organization of work

The agenda for the fifteenth session of the CDCC at the technical level, as amended, was adopted:

1. Opening of meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Statements
4. Adoption of agenda and organization of work
5. Review of the work of ECLAC/CDCC:
 - (a) Sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC; Port-of-Spain, 25 November 1993; and
 - (b) Report on the implementation of the work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1992-1993 biennium; consideration of the approved work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1994-1995 biennium; and approval of the work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium

6. Activities in preparation for United Nations Global Conferences:

- (a) The United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries (Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994);
- (b) The International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, September 1994); The Draft Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action for Population and Development; and the Draft Port of Spain Declaration on Population and Development;
- (c) The World Summit for Social Development; (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995);
- (d) The Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995)

7. Issues of economic cooperation and development:

- (a) The question of eligibility of Caribbean countries for participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA);
- (b) Issues of intra-regional cooperation:
 - (i) The Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
 - (ii) Caribbean/Latin American cooperation
- (c) Export processing in the Caribbean: Lessons from four case studies; and
- (d) Issues of structural adjustment and privatization in the Caribbean

8. The Haitian situation

9. Other issues:

- (a) Report of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST);
- (b) Report of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs);
- (c) Update on Project for the Promotion of Language Communication; and
- (d) Date and venue of the sixteenth session of the CDCC

10. Any other business

11. Adoption of the report of the fifteenth session

For purposes of the ministerial session, the following working agenda was adopted:

- 1. Opening of the meeting
- 2. Adoption of agenda
- 3. General statements
- 4. The CDCC in relation to new regional cooperation arrangements
- 5. The Haitian situation
- 6. Adoption of report of the fifteenth session at the technical level
- 7. Any other business
- 8. Venue and date of the sixteenth session of the CDCC

Agenda item 5 - Review of the work of ECLAC/CDCC

In introducing the agenda item, the Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean recalled that this was his first session as Director, although he had previously been involved in another capacity in CDCC meetings. He noted that the CDCC would soon celebrate its twentieth anniversary and thought it appropriate to step back and re-evaluate the priorities of the Office with a view to making it more effective. This was even more necessary as much had changed since the inauguration of the Committee through its Constituent Declaration in 1975. During this time, contacts in the subregion had increased due, in part, to the instrumentation of the CDCC. However, much remained to be done to break down barriers, but a start had been made.

He also traced economic developments during the ensuing period, noting the efforts of governments to adjust their economies and make them more competitive. While the social fallout from these programmes had been considerable, many countries had not yet reaped their benefits. These elements provided new pointers for the Office as to how its interventions could be made more relevant and responsive. A number of priorities had emerged, as follows:

(a) The need to intensify dialogue with governments, the thrust being to discuss the work programme of the Office and benefit from governments' guidance as to priorities.

(b) Increased collaboration with other agencies active in the Caribbean.

(c) Additional financial resources had been received from ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago for physical improvements to the Office in Port of Spain, for technical assistance missions and technical consultancies. In addition, over the past two years, the Office had drafted 24 projects so as to generate additional resources from extrabudgetary sources.

(d) The need to concentrate efforts in key areas, such as regional integration schemes, preparatory arrangements for United Nations conferences, public sector reform and non-independent Caribbean countries; and to develop a teamwork and multidisciplinary approach to the work programme of the secretariat.

Within these areas of focus, the secretariat would concentrate its efforts on areas in which it had an acknowledged competence, such as socio-economic indicators and policy advice, technical assistance to governments in macroeconomic policy, population, information, statistics and the environment.

In closing, the Director noted the facilitatory activities of the CDCC over time, from its early function of strengthening the integration movement, to building bridges between different linguistic groups within the Caribbean, to facilitating the improvement of Caribbean/Latin American relations, to providing space for the NICCs to access the resources of the United Nations. In all of these activities the CDCC had performed the function of a sounding board, working in harmony with governments.

(a) Sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC; Port-of-Spain, 25 November 1993

In tabling this report, the secretariat noted that the Monitoring Committee functioned as an inter-sessional review body to facilitate work programme planning and implementation, and that the report dealt with many issues treated elsewhere on the agenda. The representative of Cuba requested that the secretariat continue to invite his country to meetings of the Monitoring Committee.

(b) Report on the implementation of the work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1992-1993 biennium; consideration of the approved work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1994-1995 biennium; and approval of the work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium

The secretariat directed the attention of the Committee to revised priorities of the work programme, especially programme element 13.1 which elevated the priority of the programme of cooperation among member countries of the CDCC and between the Caribbean and Latin America; and programme element 13.2, Island Developing Countries, respectively. These two items have permeated the work of the secretariat for the past two years and have now been elevated to the status of explicit items. He also noted that the item, population and development, now had a place in the regular budget for the first time. This development was consequent upon a decision taken at the fourteenth session of CDCC. For the 1996-1997 biennium, social development issues were included in the work programme at item 13.4, Economic and social development.

One delegation was of the view that in the past the programme element dealing with women in development had focused primarily on women traders. The Committee was reminded of a request for the focus to include women professionals. The plight of young men was also brought to the attention of the meeting, since young women were achieving greater levels of success while boys were failing, as evidenced by a high dropout rate and a high prison population among young males. The secretariat was requested to report on its findings in these areas. The secretariat replied that it might not be accurate to suggest that its work had focused on women traders, and that a broader approach had been adopted in reviewing the status of women at all levels. The failure of young men, as evidenced by a high dropout rate from the educational system, a high prison population, high unemployment and a high incidence of violence was also being studied. The findings of both of these issues would be presented to the Committee, in due course.

The representative of the OECS indicated that the programme on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was of great importance to the OECS countries because of their position and characteristics, especially as they move to a single market. Reference was made to a study on small island States, being conducted by the World Bank, and the secretariat was asked to collaborate in this study to the extent possible. The secretariat was also requested to contribute to the process of economic analysis and planning of these countries as current initiatives did not go far enough, especially in the areas of social development. Help was also needed from the CDCC secretariat in providing support for the formulation of policies and programmes in the subregion. The secretariat reminded the meeting that a separate element of the work programme was intended for the specific benefit of the OECS and that consultations would be more systematically held with the OECS Secretariat on joint activities.

The representative of the UNFPA expressed his organization's keen interest in the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, and looked forward to collaboration with ECLAC/CDCC. The secretariat thanked UNFPA for its interest and support.

The meeting highlighted the importance of the programme elements dealing with island developing countries and environment and development. With respect to these two elements, the secretariat was asked to make the programme of action of the SIDS conference the focus of the activities of the secretariat. The secretariat indicated that this proposal reflected its thinking as expressed by the inclusion for the first time of the issue in its work programme. It noted that the Convention Establishing the ACS had recently been signed and that it would collaborate with the ACS as soon as its work programme was defined.

The secretariat was urged to make a greater effort to identify projects which would make greater use of United Nations resources and to collaborate with

regional institutions, such as CARICOM and SELA, in the area of Caribbean/Latin American relations. The secretariat was also asked, in its presentation of the 1996-1997 work programme, to provide the financial implications of these activities from the regular budget as well as from other agencies and a chronograph of the work programme events. It was also urged to follow up the outcomes of the world conferences on population, women and social development and to support the activities of the ACS. The secretariat promised that it would reflect these suggestions in its work programme document.

The priority assigned to the NICCs by the secretariat was welcomed. The meeting was reminded of the decision at a previous Monitoring Committee meeting to include the non-independent Caribbean countries explicitly under programme element 13.2. While this request had not been reflected in the work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium, it had already been adjusted at the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC.

It was noted that provision had been made for ad hoc expert group meetings in the 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 bienniums. The secretariat was asked for further information on the subjects to be addressed by these meetings. In response, the secretariat clarified that these provisions were anticipating a need and that specific subject areas had not yet been identified, but that these would be discussed in the near future. It also noted that the provision for ad hoc expert groups was inadequate for all the meetings listed in the programme, but that every effort would be made to host these meetings.

The secretariat was reminded that a request had been made at the sixth meeting of the Monitoring Committee for a study to be conducted on the issue of trade and environmental policy. The secretariat responded that this subject was currently under review within ECLAC and that the outcome would indicate whether this was sufficient for a report or whether the CDCC would need to prepare a paper on its own.

The meeting noted that owing to the cessation of funding for this project activity, the subject of Human Resources Development no longer appeared in the work programme, but recommended, because of its importance, that it should be included as an ongoing activity. The secretariat was therefore urged to keep that issue in focus and seek the necessary funding for it. In response, the secretariat noted that the item on Human Resources Development had appeared previously in the work programme, because all the resources required for this activity had been provided by extrabudgetary resources.

The meeting stressed the importance of the CDCC maintaining contact with other regional organizations and reporting developments in those forums to the CDCC member governments, since some members of the CDCC were not privy to their decisions.

The meeting noted that the quest for resources involved a long and protracted process, but enquired whether governments could assist the secretariat to get the additional resources for more effective delivery of its work programme. In response, the secretariat noted that allocations had already been made for the 1994-1995 biennium and that allocations would be made for 1996-1997 as soon as December 1995 and that governments could input into this latter budget before the deadline. Any support from governments would be welcome since this would strengthen the hand of the secretariat in its search for increased resources.

**Agenda item 6 - Activities in preparation for
United Nations Global Conferences**

(a) The United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries; (Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994)

The meeting was informed that the paper prepared by the secretariat dealt with the substantive outcome of the Global Conference and with its implications for the work of the secretariat. Attention was drawn to the role ascribed to ECLAC/CDCC in implementing the Programme of Action. The meeting was reminded that the United Nations should be enabled to support regional activities to coordinate the implementation of the outcome of the Conference.

The secretariat indicated that until such time as new resources became available, it would be making every effort to take account of the activities and mandates of the Programme of Action in the course of the execution of its own work programme. In this regard, the secretariat noted the extensive coverage of environmental matters, and the inclusion of other subjects - population, poverty, women's issues, social development issues, science and technology and issues of international trade.

Attention was drawn to Annex III of the document in which the secretariat outlined its staffing requirements to fully implement its mandate arising out of the SIDS.

Delegates expressed the view that ECLAC/CDCC was well-suited to take a lead role in the implementation of the Programme of Action in the subregion, as promoter, facilitator and coordinator. It was proposed that ECLAC/CDCC take the initiative to organize an expert group meeting in 1995 to discuss the follow-up to the Programme of Action in the Caribbean subregion. It was also suggested that an expansion of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat would be necessary in order to enable it to accomplish the tasks so outlined. Delegates indicated their governments' willingness to support a request for additional resources by ECLAC/CDCC at the United Nations General Assembly.

The meeting noted that agricultural development, which was considered a critical component of sustainable development in the Caribbean, was not given its due recognition. It was recommended that the secretariat strive to have the issue included in its preparatory work for the World Summit for Social Development.

The UNESCO delegate expressed satisfaction at the recognition by the ECLAC/CDCC of the importance of science and technology in the development matrix and hoped that scientific and technological information could become part of the Information Network coordinated by the secretariat. He expressed UNESCO's willingness to support and work closely with the secretariat in its follow-up activities.

UNCTAD and UNDP, in outlining their current work as it related to SIDS, also expressed their willingness to support the work of ECLAC/CDCC in coordinating follow-up activities to the SIDS conference and to work closely with the secretariat.

(b) The International Conference on Population and Development; (Cairo, September 1994); The Draft Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action for Population and Development; and the Draft Port of Spain Declaration on Population and Development

The secretariat reported that over the past two years technical and financial assistance had been provided to the governments of member countries in preparation for the ICPD. These preparatory activities were intended to create an awareness of the linkages between population and development issues in the Caribbean; the development of a Caribbean agenda of consensus on population and development and coordination of a Caribbean position for participation at the PREPCOM III and the Cairo Conference.

The secretariat indicated that assistance was provided in the design and conduct of meetings/symposiums; preparation of background material and presentation of conference papers; coordination of Caribbean participation and positions taken at regional meetings; establishment and operation of requisite national and subregional institutional mechanisms; and the preparation of national population reports, the Port-of-Spain Declaration on Population and Development, the Caribbean Plan of Action as well as the regional Latin American and Caribbean Plan of Action.

It was noted that most of these activities were co-sponsored by UNFPA.

The meeting was informed that at the national level the secretariat assisted in the preparation of national population reports, establishment of national population committees, and the conduct of national population symposiums in preparation for Cairo. Special missions were also conducted to Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Netherlands Antilles.

In addition, the objectives and outputs of a series of seven subregional and regional preparatory meetings, which began with the Caribbean Symposium in July 1992 in Antigua and Barbuda, were outlined for the meeting.

The secretariat also presented The Port of Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and informed the meeting that this document, which was formulated by representatives of 19 CDCC member countries, had undergone a series of redrafting sessions based on comments from member governments and non-governmental organizations. Its main purpose was the formulation of a Caribbean position on population and sustainable development for coordinated participation at the ICPD, Cairo.

Several governments paid tribute to the secretariat for the invaluable support provided in the preparation of national population reports, establishment of national population committees and the awareness-creation achieved in their countries.

The meeting also congratulated the secretariat on the extensive range of subregional and regional preparatory activities conducted over the past two years in preparation for the ICPD, Cairo.

The document entitled "The Port of Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development" was placed before the meeting for its approval. The secretariat was commended by several delegations for the development of this document which they considered to be very comprehensive and useful for providing support and visibility to the Caribbean subregion. Some representatives highlighted areas of the document that should be given priority at the ICPD, Cairo.

The secretariat was asked to prepare a study to document the contribution that migrants made to Caribbean development. In response, the secretariat stated that a study on international migration was being conducted.

Concern was expressed regarding the political pressures that might be exerted on the positions taken by the Caribbean subregion in the Port of Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development. In this regard, attention was drawn to the sections in the document relating to reproductive health, reproductive rights, family planning and abortion. The meeting was informed that these concepts had been placed within brackets in the ICPD Draft Programme of Action document during the PREPCOM III meeting as a result of the reluctance of the Holy See to accept the definitions and implications of these terms. These issues were expected to be resolved at the ICPD, Cairo.

The UNFPA representative expressed support for the concerns of these delegations and explained to the meeting the implications of the bracketing process. He also provided the meeting with a clarification of UNFPA's position on abortion, that it was not to be considered as a family planning method as claimed by the Holy See, but as a concern affecting reproductive health with considerations for morbidity and mortality.

The delegate of the United States Virgin Islands expressed appreciation to the UNFPA for its offer of assistance to enable the participation of CDCC associate member countries in the global conference.

In conclusion, the meeting endorsed the Port of Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and recommended its adoption by the Committee at its ministerial session.

(c) The World Summit for Social Development; (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995)

The meeting was informed of the following core issues to be addressed at the World Summit for Social Development:

- (a) The enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups;
- (b) The alleviation and reduction of poverty; and
- (c) The expansion of productive employment.

The meeting was asked to note the objectives of the Summit as outlined on page one of the document "Activities relating to the United Nations World Summit for Social Development" (LC/CAR/G.420) and the fact that the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat had convened a Group of Experts Meeting in Port of Spain in November 1993, as part of its United Nations mandate.

The purpose of the meeting was recalled and it was reported that 30 participants had been drawn from the secretariats of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and CARICOM, public sector officials, academics, and representatives of NGOs and United Nations organizations in the subregion.

The delegates were invited to look at the key issues arising out of the first round of discussions for consideration by policy makers, as contained in the conclusion.

The meeting was reminded that upon completion of round two of the Caribbean preparatory process, carded for the latter part of 1994, the secretariat envisaged that the subregion would have achieved greater consensus on those issues and would have arrived at a position for the purposes of the regional meeting and the World Summit for Social Development.

The meeting thanked the secretariat for the high level of work carried out on the preparatory activities for the Summit. It indicated that the documents presented and the work which came out of the expert group meeting were very critical. Those documents had already been put to use to provide a Caribbean perspective to the work being done at the national level in preparation for the World Summit.

The meeting noted that ECLAC/CDCC proposed to convene a second preparatory meeting for the World Social Summit, scheduled for the latter part of 1994.

(d) The Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995)

The meeting was informed that in keeping with its mandate, the secretariat had been providing technical assistance to governments and non-governmental organizations in the subregion in the preparatory process as detailed in the report. Drawn to the attention of the meeting was the recently concluded Subregional Preparatory Conference in Curacao in June 1994. The document, entitled "Achieving Social Justice, Equity and Development: A Review of the Status of Women of the Caribbean Subregion in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995" was approved by consensus.

Member countries were thanked for submitting national reports of a high quality in a timely manner. It was concluded that the Caribbean was now well-prepared to participate at the ECLAC Regional Preparatory Conference in September 1994 in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The meeting expressed pleasure at the level of preparation that occurred in the subregion and congratulated the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat for this accomplishment and hoped that there would be funding made available to the secretariat to ensure the continuation of work in this area.

Delegates expressed their satisfaction with the preparatory work for all three world conferences on the agenda.

**Agenda item 7 - Issues of economic cooperation
and development**

(a) The question of eligibility of Caribbean countries for participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

The secretariat presented a paper on the NAFTA and the question of the eligibility of Caribbean countries, which included a brief summary of the main features of the NAFTA as well as an attempt to define more precisely the eligibility criteria, as outlined by United States officials in various forums. The criteria included macroeconomic stability, an open trading regime, more liberal foreign investment rules and regulations, better protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights and better protection of the environment.

In addition, the paper attempted to assess the readiness of Caribbean countries for accession to the NAFTA by comparing some of their macroeconomic indicators and some of their economic and trade policies with the eligibility criteria. The paper found that there were weaknesses with regard to each of the criteria but that efforts were being made in most of the countries of the region to reform their economic, trade and investment policies as well as their laws regarding intellectual property rights and enforcement regimes. The paper concluded that it was the continuation of those policies which would lead to the economic and social progress of the countries as well as the fulfilment of the eligibility criteria.

At the end of its presentation, the secretariat informed the meeting of the identification of Chile as the next country invited to negotiate access to the NAFTA; the introduction in the United States Congress of a NAFTA Parity Bill which sought to give CBI countries the same access to the United States market as Mexico for three years and the decision by CARICOM to seek to access NAFTA as a group, while recognizing that some of its member countries might need different timetables.

In the discussion that followed, the secretariat was commended on the work carried out on this issue. A suggestion was made that the secretariat should prepare further studies on the NAFTA to highlight the challenges that the countries might face as a result of the agreement and inform the negotiations that might take place in the future.

It was also suggested that the secretariat should review some of the requirements of the NAFTA compared to those of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and take into account the expectations of CDCC member countries.

(b) Issues of intra-regional cooperation

(i) The Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

The Chairman introduced the topic by informing the meeting that there were two presentations on the issue - one from the CARICOM Secretariat and the other from the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat.

The representative of the CARICOM Secretariat referred to the two documents presented on the issue, clarifying that one of them was a background information document that gave a CARICOM perspective on the process of the establishment of the ACS.

He then informed the meeting about the process which had led to the signing on 24 July 1994 by 24 of the 25 potential member States as well as one potential associate member of the Convention establishing the ACS. He reminded the meeting that the ACS was an integration and cooperation organization which constituted the response of its member countries to the ongoing transformation of the international system, in particular, the establishment of economic blocs in other regions of the world. The representative of the CARICOM Secretariat also informed the meeting that the issues of the establishment of the ACS secretariat, its budget and its work programme were yet to be finalized. He acknowledged the active participation of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in the preparatory process leading to the signing of the ACS Convention and described the complexities involved in making provision for the participation of associate members in the Association.

The secretariat acknowledged the comprehensive and up-to-date nature of the CARICOM representative's report and stated that the objective of the agenda item was to summarize the issues and introduce the Committee to the most recent developments relating to the ACS. It was hoped that the update would assist governments in their reflection as to how the relationship between the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat and the ACS might evolve in the immediate future.

After describing the events leading up to the agreement of the text of the Convention, its salient points were briefly described, notably its objective, membership and structure, including the secretariat and possible financing arrangements. The early efforts to draft a work programme for the ACS were described.

Turning to institutional arrangements, the secretariat noted that unlike other regional initiatives, such as the CARICOM Treaty, no provision had been made for associate institutions in the Convention establishing the ACS. The

Convention, however, empowered the Secretary-General to negotiate and conclude agreements with various actors, as might be required for the advancement of the work of the Association. The secretariat suggested that a structured, formalized relationship should be established with the ACS in view of the complementary nature of the work programmes of ECLAC and the ACS. In closing, the secretariat requested the guidance of the meeting as to how the future relationship between the CDCC and the ACS might evolve.

In the discussion which followed the two presentations, the meeting was informed that the roles and relationships of existing subregional organizations vis-a-vis the ACS were being addressed and would be clarified in the future. However, it was expected that the ACS would need the support of the existing subregional organizations and would fill the existing gaps in the mandate of those organizations and play a coordinating role. The meeting noted the need to make the people of the region better aware of the objectives of the ACS.

The secretariat informed the meeting that it had been conducting and disseminating work in the area of "open regionalism" which sought to make the existing trading and cooperative arrangements more outward looking and more supportive of economic development.

During their interventions, the NICCs confirmed their interest in the ACS and highlighted the problem of receipt of information as an impediment to their participation in the process leading to the establishment of the organization. They would continue to search for ways to solve the problem of entry and would start immediate consultations with a view to seeking associate membership in the ACS.

The representative of the Dominican Republic informed the meeting that the ACS was a significant step forward for his country's integration with the rest of the region and reiterated his country's interest in hosting the headquarters of the organization.

The Trinidad and Tobago delegate commended the CDCC secretariat for the work done, as well as its role in facilitating consultation and cooperation among its member States. She informed the meeting that the Trinidad and Tobago Government had offered to host the headquarters of the ACS, an offer that had been endorsed by CARICOM.

(ii) Caribbean/Latin American cooperation

In presenting this item, the secretariat drew attention to the proliferation of integration and cooperation groupings in the world and the resulting new context in which Caribbean/Latin American cooperation had to be viewed. It observed that cooperation had already been taking place and a move towards a more programmatic approach was required. The secretariat ended its presentation by proposing specific areas for cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean. Those included trade and investment, economic and social development, external sector and economic integration and transportation and science and technology.

In the discussion which followed, the representative of IICA informed the meeting of the interest of his organization in the various subjects discussed at this CDCC session and offered the collaboration and cooperation of his organization with the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat on agricultural issues.

In response to a question whether ECLAC/CDCC would leave the issue of Latin American and Caribbean cooperation to the newly-established Association of Caribbean States, the secretariat indicated that the relationship between the CDCC and the ACS was still being defined and that it assumed that the new organization might need the support of the ECLAC/CDCC in the implementation of aspects of its work programme.

The CDCC in relation to new regional cooperation arrangements

This item was included in the working agenda for the ministerial session.

In opening this agenda item, Mr Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of ECLAC made reference to the typology of concentric circles used by Dr. Eric Williams to explain the degrees of closeness of integration in the Caribbean. The innermost circle referred to CARICOM, while the second circle referred to the countries comprising the CDCC. Noting that the CDCC was created to integrate these countries, the Executive Secretary commented that the way integration was currently approached had, however, changed. Indeed all vectors were undergoing change within the United Nations itself; the focus on economic and social development was being reevaluated in the light of peace-keeping needs; within the Caribbean cooperative, activities would change with the creation of the ACS, and it was necessary to think through new and appropriate ways to promote cooperation.

In these new circumstances, the Executive Secretary stated that the CDCC occupied four niches. It provided a sounding-board which allowed Caribbean inputs to filter into the formation of the ECLAC work programme. It provided a forum for analysing global issues from a Caribbean perspective and for transmitting the subregion's concerns to global United Nations forums. The CDCC continued to provide a vehicle for strengthening cooperation between CARICOM and the non-CARICOM countries and cooperation with the relevant regional institutions, such as CARICOM and the OECS. Finally, it provided the best opportunity for fostering closer cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America.

In all of these areas, the secretariat needed to think through these development issues within a conceptual framework. This was evident as so many levels of integration were being created, NAFTA had, for example, altered the situation in the wider Caribbean. There was a need to find coherence in these activities. This was necessary so as to permit good governance, to reduce the risks of trade diversion and promote trade creating policies instead, to minimize the dangers of fragmentation at the regional level and to promote a regime of more open cooperation. In closing, the Executive Secretary committed ECLAC to assisting the ACS to maximize the benefits of the new integration arrangements. He expressed the hope that the new demonstration of political will would permit ECLAC to carry out some of the activities which were in its mandate but which had, hitherto, been impossible.

In the discussions which followed a number of points emerged. While NAFTA and the ACS were regarded as positive developments, concern was expressed that the ACS would become another regional bureaucracy. It was felt also that caution was necessary in approaching a wider hemispheric arrangement to ensure that trade was not merely free, but also fair. The CDCC was regarded as a model of inclusion, which permitted the NICCs the fullest participation. It was considered to be strategically placed to take the lead role in linking its members with United Nations global activities. Noting the move towards decentralization in the United Nations system, the hope was expressed that sufficient resources would be transferred to enable the CDCC to realize its potential.

(c) Export processing in the Caribbean: Lessons from four case studies

The secretariat indicated that the objective of this research paper was to contribute to public discussion on export processing, which was becoming increasingly important to the subregion. Currently, it employed over 6 per cent of the labour force in the Dominican Republic, 5.8 per cent in Saint Lucia and 3.4 per cent in Jamaica. The fourth country studied, Trinidad and Tobago, had not achieved much success in export processing and was contrasted with Mauritius which had many commonalities with Trinidad and Tobago, but which had evolved a very successful export processing sector.

The comparative study sought to provide answers to a number of outstanding questions, essentially relating to the contribution of export processing to development. While most of the jobs created were indeed low-skill jobs, this was of benefit to the large unskilled population, since it introduced them to industrial processes for the first time. Moreover, they were given the same institutional protection as their domestic counterparts and were invariably better paid, because they were more productive. Avenues for mobility also existed within the firms, so that workers could develop their skills. Local supervisors, technicians and plant managers were also acquiring valuable skills for the industrial development of the subregion.

The contribution of export processing activities to the national economy was also addressed. The paucity of backward and forward linkages was not inherent, but imposed by policy. Its contribution was greatest where those activities were not isolated from the domestic economy, either in physical or economic enclaves. The challenge for Caribbean countries was to integrate the benefits of export processing activities by becoming export-oriented economies.

In the discussion which followed, the representative of Cuba stated that the EPZ model was not a solution to development problems and that the transfer of technology was minimal. However, foreign direct investment in general could contribute to the development of the countries of the subregion if strategic alliances were forged with foreign capital to guarantee the national interests of the countries and increase their competitiveness.

The secretariat agreed that EPZs were not a solution to development problems in the countries, but that they might be a part of the transition process which allowed a fundamental move towards what should be the ultimate objective, which was that of becoming an export-promoting economy. The secretariat suggested that technology transfer was not a passive process but rather one that involved the acquisition of technology, its internalization and transformation.

(d) Issues of structural adjustment and privatization in the Caribbean

The secretariat stated that the objective of the paper presented by the secretariat was to shed some light on two highly partisan and charged issues. It traced the adjustment process in four Caribbean countries: the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago in the 1980s, using various economic indicators to try to judge the extent to which policy approached its goal of equilibrium in the short term and transformation in the medium term. It also discussed the privatization initiatives taken by these countries, defined to mean the range of policy actions which moved the economy from State to market regulation.

The paper suggested that adjustment became urgent because of the twin oil price increases, in 1973 and 1979-1981. These constituted severe shocks to most economies world wide, including the Caribbean case studies, and set in train various responses. In some instances, policies were adequate to the task, while in others, inappropriate policy responses created further shocks to the economies.

Adjustment was traumatic and protracted in all the countries studied because it required fundamental change in the prevailing development paradigm, from command and control by the State to decentralization and market regulation. This shift illustrated the close relationship between adjustment and privatization. In the latter case, the paper explored the process of debate and consensus-building and options surrounding the issues of whether to privatize, what to privatize and how to privatize.

In the discussion which followed, the meeting was informed of the progress made by Grenada in the implementation of its structural adjustment programme.

The Cuban delegate highlighted the social problems which arose out of the implementation of adjustment programmes and liberalization of economies. These included an increase in poverty and worsening income distribution. He also drew attention to the role of the State in economic development and stated that privatization was not practical in all cases and should be approached with care. He suggested that the subregional institutions should assist the countries in solving their specific problems which were related to adjustment in a difficult situation.

The dilemma faced by CARICOM countries in securing the viability of the subregional airline LIAT was given as an example of the difficulties being faced in dealing with public enterprises. In response, the secretariat outlined some of the modalities being used to restructure the public utilities in the region, suggesting that some of these techniques might be applicable in the case of LIAT.

The secretariat stated that although privatization reduced the spread of the State's intervention in the economy, it did not necessarily reduce the importance of its intervention. The State should concentrate on what only it could do and let the private sector deal with those activities best suited to it.

It was agreed that each country had to chart its own path towards adjustment and privatization and explained that natural monopolies, for example, encountered problems whether they were under State control or in private hands. There was need to regulate those entities regardless of ownership.

Agenda item 8 - The Haitian situation

In drawing attention to the present crisis in Haiti, the delegate of Antigua and Barbuda reminded the meeting of the impact of the historical experiences of the Haitian slave revolt and subsequent repayment of debt to France which contributed towards the impoverishment of the Haitian society. He noted that assistance had not always been forthcoming to Haiti despite that country's historical contribution to the abolition of slavery in the subregion, and exhorted ECLAC/CDCC to provide the necessary resources for this member State now in crisis.

The delegate of Haiti updated the meeting on the present situation in Haiti. Reference was made to the conflicts and suffering of the people as well as consequences of the displacement of the Constitutional Government. He thanked all of the countries as well as the United Nations and other international organizations for their efforts aimed at contributing towards the resolution of the crisis.

Several delegates reiterated the full support of their governments for the accommodation of Haitian refugees, and the reconstruction of the Haitian economy following the reinstatement of the Constitutional Government.

The representative of Antigua and Barbuda, presented a draft resolution on Haiti, which he stated, represented the sentiments of a number of members consulted over the course of the meeting. Before outlining the contents and objectives of the resolution, he noted the use, in the past, of Antigua and Barbuda as a military base for action against countries in the region, including Haiti. He expressed the hope that the draft resolution would go some way to atone for his country's past complicity with the international community's policy to isolate Haiti and asked members to lend their unanimous support to it.

The representative of Haiti expressed her sincere thanks to those countries responsible for the resolution. She asked for the solidarity of CDCC members to

help Haiti, to get out of the current crisis and to rebuild the country, thereafter. She noted that the solution to Haiti's problems could not be achieved by the flight of the Haitian people but would need to begin with the restitution of the constitutionally elected government. Following that, there was the need for a project of reconstruction, to train a police force to safeguard the democracy, to proceed with the physical reconstruction of the country, to upgrade skills at all levels, to construct health clinics and so on. In closing, she expressed thanks for the resolution and asked that it be supported.

Resolution 43(XV) entitled "The situation in Haiti", was adopted unanimously and is reproduced at Part Three of this report.

Agenda item 9 - Other issues

(a) Report of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)

The secretariat introduced the three information documents LC/CAR/G.406, LC/CAR/G.399 and Information Paper No.5, which contained the annual report, the work programme for a five-year period and an update on the status of the consultations between CDCC and CCST, with a view to effecting administrative arrangements which CCST had recommended.

In presenting the draft resolution entitled "Enhancement of the Capability of the CCST", the Cuban delegation reminded the meeting that much of the discussion which transpired during the SIDS conference in Barbados reinforced the important role of science and technology in dealing with some of the challenges facing the Caribbean subregion. He also outlined the difficulties which the CCST had to face in seeking to implement its programme as a result of financial and administrative constraints. The delegate supported the need to make a critical analysis and evaluation of the work programme of the CCST during the last 10 years and make a revision of its mission, objectives, function and structure. Delegates supported the resolution. The resolution is reproduced at Part Three of this report.

(b) Report of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs)

The representative of the United States Virgin Islands in the capacity of Chairman of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries, presented the report of the Working Group and outlined the activities of the Group since the fourteenth session of the CDCC, focusing mainly on the participation of associate members in United Nations world conferences, including the Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction.

He also pointed to ongoing initiatives of the Working Group in seeking observer status for CDCC associate members in other world conferences, including the World summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

The meeting was informed of a number of initiatives recommended to be undertaken within the framework of the CDCC work programme. These included an analysis of the rules of procedure of United Nations world conferences, an overview of constitutional arrangements, the impact of NAFTA on associate member countries, analysis of market access to the European Union and potential for regional integration within the Association of Caribbean States.

(c) Update on Project for the Promotion of Language Communication

The representative of Dominica introduced resolution 41(XV) entitled "Removal of Language Barriers in the Caribbean", which was sponsored by five countries, and referred to the meeting of Language Experts held in Santo Domingo, 25 July 1994. Reference was also made to the project document for the removal of language barriers and the active contribution of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles in its formulation.

The meeting was informed that the expert from the Netherlands Antilles had presented the project document for the removal of language barriers, which had been prepared, reviewed and refined by the European Community consultants, to the meeting of language experts. The Netherlands Antilles also expressed its gratitude for the cooperation received by CDCC members during the life of this project.

Delegates reiterated the importance of this project for strengthening communication among the countries in the subregion and endorsed the resolution, which is reproduced at Part Three of this report. As a modality for strengthening communication, one delegation proposed the intensification of student exchanges between countries and institutions in the subregion.

(d) Date and venue of the sixteenth session of the CDCC

Offers to host the sixteenth session of the CDCC in December 1995 were received from the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and the United States Virgin Islands. The secretariat was mandated to consult with member countries and inform them of the site and date of the sixteenth session, in due course.

Agenda item 10 - Any other business

CDCC/CARICOM Agreement

The secretariat introduced Information Paper 1 entitled "Draft Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between ECLAC/CDCC and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)". It noted that this represented the culmination of a series of consultations between both institutions which were intended to improve the level of cooperation between them. In response, the CARICOM representative, in conveying the Community's approval of text of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding noted that CARICOM's cooperation in concluding the Memorandum was to be seen in the context of efforts to expand the external relations of the Community, both with respect to third countries and intergovernmental institutions. It was proposed that the Draft Memorandum be brought into force, through an appropriate procedure, at an early date.

Cooperation Agreement between the CDCC and the Institute of International Relations (IIR)

The secretariat informed the meeting that an agreement had been entered into with the Institute of International Relations with the objective of increasing cooperation and exchange with that institution. The meeting recognized the presence of the representative of the Institute, noting that he was attending a CDCC session for the first time. He was invited to address the meeting.

The representative of the IIR expressed his pleasure at being able to cooperate with the CDCC in its task of providing training for the people of the subregion. He noted that this cooperation could take the form of research, internships for students and assistance in collaboration with sister institutions in the ACS. After providing a brief history of the Institute, he listed some of

its achievements, noting that its graduates had achieved some eminence in the region. He expressed the readiness of the Institute to contribute to the continuing development of the region.

Participation in the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico Regional Hydrographic Commission (CGMHC)

The Cuban delegation informed the meeting that the CGMHC was constituted in Havana, with representatives from the hydrographic offices of the Republic of Cuba, the Republic of Guyana, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the United States of Mexico, and the United States of America as well as of the President of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

He indicated that the CGMHC was of a consultative scientific and technical nature and it would have no authority over the hydrographic Offices of the member countries. In asking CDCC members to join the Commission, he noted that membership would entail no cost to governments.

The Committee welcomed the initiative to create the CGMHC and urged CDCC governments to consider membership.

Other

The meeting enquired whether the secretariat had prepared any plans for its next meeting, paying particular attention to the relationship between the CDCC and other regional institutions, since that meeting would commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Committee. The secretariat assured the meeting that the twentieth anniversary of the CDCC would be appropriately commemorated.

The secretariat noted that a technical meeting of the ACS was scheduled for mid-August, at which the secretariat would be able to offer assistance, not only at the substantive level but in other areas where it might be able to make a contribution. It was also noted that the work programme contained an element relating to Caribbean/Latin American cooperation which provided space in the work programme for relevant action. Work was also expected to continue on NAFTA, while collaboration between the ECLAC offices in Port-of-Spain and Mexico would form a priority for future action.

Delegates repeated their congratulations to the secretariat for the commendable progress which it had made in the promotion of development cooperation among the member countries and for the successes which it had achieved, as reflected in recent meetings of the CDCC.

Condolences to Mrs. Cordell Wilson

The meeting expressed its condolences to Mrs. Cordell Wilson, who had served as Chairperson at the thirteenth session of the CDCC, on the recent death of her husband and asked that they be conveyed to her by the Jamaican delegation.

**Agenda item 11 - Adoption of report
of the fifteenth session**

The report of the fifteenth session at the technical level, as amended by the ministerial session, was adopted.

PART THREE

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SESSION

41(XV) REMOVAL OF LANGUAGE BARRIERS IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Bearing in mind that the ECLAC/CDCC Removal of Language Barriers Programme, originating in 1978 is designed to promote economic, social and cultural integration in the Caribbean by improving oral and written communication between countries with different linguistic heritages;

Recalling CDCC resolution 28(XII) which recommended to all CDCC member countries that they support concrete efforts to enhance communication in the Caribbean and utilize all means possible to promote the highest levels of multilingualism;

Recognizing subsequent advances in social, cultural and economic development and integration, and the essential role of multilingualism in these processes;

Mindful of the increased urgency of removing language barriers in the Caribbean and of creating institutions to make this possible, especially in light of recent developments in regional integration and taking particularly into account the formation of the Association of Caribbean States;

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts made by the Government of the Netherlands Antilles to obtain funding for the preparation of the project document on the Removal of Language Barriers in the Caribbean:

1. Reaffirms its strong commitment to promote multilingualism in the Caribbean, by according the project the highest level of national and regional priority;

2. Expresses its appreciation for the valuable contribution to the review and refinement of the project by the meeting of language experts which took place in Santo Domingo on 25 July 1994;

3. Endorses the ECLAC/CDCC project as elaborated in the final project document entitled "Removal of Language Barriers in the Caribbean", which includes the following main elements:

- (a) Preparation of national and regional language plans and policies consistent with the development needs of the member countries of the CDCC;
- (b) Establishment of a regional data bank of existing language institutions, projects, programmes and available human resources in the Caribbean;
- (c) Provision of training for foreign language teachers, translators and interpreters in member countries of the CDCC;
- (d) Establishment of a Caribbean Language Institute with a regional board appointed by member and associate member countries, national chapters of that institute and national operating units;
- (e) Provision of donor support for the financing of the project for the first three to five years and the development of proposals for continued financing thereafter;

4. Requests the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to work with member Governments in securing financial support for the quickest possible implementation of the project;

5. Endorses the proposal to locate the Caribbean Language Institute in the Netherlands Antilles.

42(XV) ENHANCEMENT OF THE CAPABILITY OF THE CCST

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Taking into account with appreciation the report of the activities of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) for the period 1993-1994;

Conscious of the need to establish an adequate correspondence and coherence between the objectives of CDCC and CCST;

Aware of the need to strengthen the activities of the CCST in order to enable it to fully realize its objectives and to provide it with the means by which it can mobilize resources for its work programme;

Taking into consideration that the experience of the work of CCST in the last 10 years makes necessary a revision of its mission, objectives, functions and structure in accordance with the present and future scientific and technological priorities of the Caribbean subregion and the financial situation of its member countries;

Recalling past decisions and discussions of the CDCC and the CCST in which the need for a more structured secretariat service has been enunciated;

Bearing in mind the statement of the Secretary General to the General Assembly on 2 November 1992 in which he stressed the importance of decentralization at both the national and regional levels, as a means of bringing the United Nations closer to the member States it serves; his intention to strengthen the role and contribution of the regional commissions, emphasizing, at the same time, the need for the commissions to operate within a coherent organizational strategy and for decentralization and greater delegation of authority to be accompanied by measures to enhance accountability, inter alia, by increasingly becoming providers of technical cooperation activities, especially in intersectoral areas and in areas where no other United Nations entity has a comparative advantage;

Regretting the fact that a number of CCST member countries are in arrears in their contribution to the Council;

Reiterating its conviction that the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology remain an important mechanism for the promotion of science and technology in the subregion;

1. Requests the CDCC secretariat, together with CCST, to make an evaluation of the work of CCST during the last 10 years and make a revision of its mission, objectives, functions and structure, taking into consideration CDCC's development strategy, the main scientific and technological problems in the subregion and the financial situation of CCST member countries, and to propose the appropriate amendments to the CCST Statutes;

2. Expresses its appreciation for the support that the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean provides to CCST, including the provision of regular budget posts and administrative and substantive backup;

3. Agrees to maintain the attention and control which CCST requires, in accordance with United Nations regulations and, at the same time, to establish an adequate coordination and coherence between its objectives and those of the CCST until such time as CCST's Statutes can be revised and approved;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to endeavour to seek ways to reinstate to P-5 level post previously allocated to science and technology in the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the provision of CCST secretariat services.

43(XV) THE SITUATION IN HAITI

The member Governments attending the fifteenth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) meeting at the ministerial level in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on Friday 29 July 1994,

Taking note of the severity of the crisis in Haiti;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and other international institutions;

Reaffirming the validity of the Governor's Island Accord as providing a framework for the resolution of the Haitian crisis;

Reiterating the importance of the restoration of constitutional order and democracy and respect for human rights as conditions necessary for the promotion of development;

1. Reiterate their support for the constitutional Government of President Jean Bertrand Aristide, and their commitment to ensuring its restoration to power;

2. Undertake to provide every necessary assistance within their available means in preparing for the restoration of the Constitutional Government;

3. Pledge to provide assistance in the development of human resources for the creation of democratic institutions and the creation of the necessary infrastructure to provide education and health for the people of Haiti;

4. Agree to explore the possibilities for cooperation and training in tourism, environment, agri-business;

5. Endorse the need for the continued provision of humanitarian assistance by the international community in accordance with the need to make optimal use of available resources;

6. Request the secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of this resolution.

**44(XV) PARTICIPATION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF CDCC
IN UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL CONFERENCES**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the Report of the Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries (NICCs),

Recalling relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions facilitating the participation of associate members of United Nations regional economic commissions as observers in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the United Nations Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Further recalling relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions providing for the participation of associate members of United Nations regional economic commissions as observers in the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Resolution II/8 of 27 April 1994 calling for observer status of ECLAC associate members in future world conferences, in particular, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Conscious of the approval of provisions in the 1994-1995 work programme of the ECLAC on provision of support on matters of interest to ECLAC associate members, and similar provisions in the 1996-1997 work programme,

Taking note that the inclusion of these provisions in the 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 work programmes are subject to the acquisition of extrabudgetary resources,

1. Notes with satisfaction the inclusion of provisions providing observer status for CDCC associate members to participate in previous United Nations world conferences through the efforts of the Working Group of NICCs and the support of CDCC member governments;

2. Requests support of CDCC member governments at the General Assembly and ECOSOC levels for provisions providing for CDCC associate members to participate in the capacity of observer in United Nations world conferences, consistent with ECLAC Resolution II/8 of 27 April 1994;

3. Also requests the secretariat to take note that matters of particular interest to associate member countries, as referred to in the work programme of 1994-1995 include an analysis of rules of procedure on United Nations world conferences and eligibility for participation in voluntary funds, an overview of respective constitutional arrangements, an analysis of the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement, analysis of preferential market access to the European Union and the potential for regional integration within the Association of Caribbean States (ACS);

4. Further requests the Chairman of the Working Group to report to the sixteenth session of CDCC on the progress of its work.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LISTE DE PARTICIPANTS

A. Member States
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Estados miembros

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St George's

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B. Associate members
Membres associés
Miembros asociados

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Mr Merrill Emile Robles
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Foreign Economic Relations
Oranjestad

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Foreign Relations Bureau

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UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
Head of delegation:

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C. Observers
Observateurs
Observadores

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D. United Nations Secretariat
Secrétariat de l'Organisation
des Nations Unies
Secretaría de la Organización
de las Naciones Unidas

United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)
Mrs Janet Badjan-Young, Director, United Nations Information Centre, Port-of-Spain

E. United Nations Bodies
Organismes des Nations Unies
Organismos de las Naciones Unidas

Food and Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations (FAO)

Mr. Serge M. Michon, FAO Representative, Apartado Postal 1424, Santo Domingo

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Mr G. E. Williams, Interregional Adviser, Division for Economic Cooperation among
Developing Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD/Geneva

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr Claudio Caldarone, Resident Representative a.i.
Mr Edgardo Sepulveda, Programme Officer, UNDP/Santo Domingo

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Mr K. V. R. Moorthy, Director for the Caribbean
 Ms Gilka de Chez, UNFPA/Santo Domingo

- F. United Nations specialized agencies
 Institutions spécialisées
 Organismos especializados

International Labour Organisation

Ms Grace Strachan, Senior Specialist on Employment Services and Labour Market
 Analysis, ILO Caribbean Office, Port-of-Spain

United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr Simon Clarke, UNESCO Representative in Jamaica and Subregional Adviser for
 Education in the Caribbean

- G. Other intergovernmental organizations
 Autres organismes intergouvernementaux
 Otros organismos intergubernamentales

Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM)

Mr Arthur Gray, Acting Director, Foreign Policy and External Economic Relations

Institute of International Relations (IIR)

Mr Carl D. Parris, Director, IIR, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine,
 Trinidad and Tobago

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Mr Leonardo A. Da Silva, Representative in the Dominican Republic,
 Mr Luis A. Vergara, Deputy Representative

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Mr Reginald E. Pierre, Director of Caribbean Area Operations, Barbados

Organization of American States (OAS)

Ms Maria Cobian, Direct Services Support Officer, OAS, Santo Domingo

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Dr J. Bernard Yankey, Director, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States/Economic
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 Mr Junia Nibbs, Economist, Office of the Director

H. ECLAC system
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Systeme de la CEPALC

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

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Mr Gert Rosenthal
Mr Roberto Jovel
Mr Ernesto Ottone
Mr Genaro Silva

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port-of-Spain

Mr Daniel Blanchard
Mr Swinburne Lestrade
Ms Barbara Boland
Mr Lancelot Busby
Mr Trevor Harker
Ms Asha Kambon
Mr Sidya Ould El Hady
Ms Trudy Teelucksingh

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters, Mexico

Mr Horacio Santamaria

Annex 2**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

LC/CAR/G.378/Rev.1	Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1994-95 biennium
LC/CAR/G.389	Report of the fourteenth session of the CDCC
LC/CAR/G.399	Work programme of the CCST for a five-year period (1994-1998)
LC/CAR/G.400	Report of meeting of economic managers and planners of the Caribbean: Towards development with equity
LC/CAR/G.401	Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC
LC/CAR/G.402	Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on Social Development (in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development)
LC/CAR/G.403	The Port-of-Spain Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development
LC/CAR/G.404	Structural adjustment and privatization in the Caribbean
LC/CAR/G.406 CCST/94/1	Eleventh Annual Report of the CCST
LC/CAR/G.407	Export Processing in the Caribbean: Lessons from Four Case Studies
LC/CAR/G.409	Provisional agenda
LC/CAR/G.409/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
LC/CAR/G.410	Implementation of the work programme of ECLAC/CDCC for the 1992-1993 biennium: January-December 1993
LC/CAR/G.411	Recent resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and by ECLAC, which may be of special interest to member countries of the CDCC
LC/CAR/G.412	Special meeting of representatives of CDCC member countries attending the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC
LC/CAR/G.413	Working Group of NICCs - Report of the Chairman
LC/CAR/G.414	Draft work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1996-1997 biennium
LC/CAR/G.415	NAFTA and the question of eligibility for Caribbean countries

- LC/CAR/G.416 Caribbean/Latin American cooperation: Towards a Programme of Activity for ECLAC
- LC/CAR/G.417 Preparations undertaken in the Caribbean subregional by the ECLAC/CDCC Office for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, Beijing 1995
- LC/CAR/G.418 ECLAC/CDCC and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
- LC/CAR/G.419 Activities relating to the United Nations International Conference on Population and Sustainable Development
- LC/CAR/G.420 Activities relating to the United Nations World Summit for Social Development
- LC/CAR/G.421 Participation of member countries in the work of ECLAC/CDCC
- LC/CAR/G.424 Evolution of Caribbean Economic Integration: A brief review
- LC/CAR/G.425 The Association of Caribbean States (ACS): A Commentary

